AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS:

This listing will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A curable mixture comprising at least one multi-functional Michael donor, at least one multi-functional Michael acceptor, and at least one anion of a Michael donor, wherein said curable mixture comprises 5% or less by weight non-reactive volatile compounds that have boiling points of 120°C or less, based on the total weight of said curable mixture, wherein each Michael acceptor functional group in said multifunctional Michael acceptor is a residue of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, fumaric acid, or maleic acid.

2. (previously presented) The curable mixture of claim 1 wherein said multi-functional Michael donor has at least two acetoacetoxy functional groups and wherein said multi-functional Michael donor has a skeleton selected from the group consisting of
   (a) polyhydric alcohols that have molecular weight 200 or greater,
   (b) oligomers that have weight-average molecular weight of 400 to 1,000, and
   (c) polymers that have weight-average molecular weight of 1,000 or more.

3. (previously presented) The curable mixture of claim 1 wherein said anion of a Michael donor comprises a reaction product of an acetoacetoxy functional molecule with an alkali metal alkoxide, wherein said acetoacetoxy functional molecule has a skeleton selected from the group consisting of
   (a) polyhydric alcohols that have molecular weight 200 or greater,
   (b) oligomers that have weight-average molecular weight of 400 to 1,000, and
   (c) polymers that have weight-average molecular weight of 1,000 or more.

4. (previously presented) The curable mixture of claim 1 wherein said multi-functional Michael acceptor has a skeleton selected from the group consisting of
   (a) polyhydric alcohols,

(b) oligomers that have weight-average molecular weight of 400 to 1,000, and

(c) polymers that have weight-average molecular weight of 1,000 or more;

with the proviso that when said multi-functional Michael acceptor has said skeleton (a), the molecular weight of said multi-functional Michael acceptor is 5,000 or less; and with the further proviso that when said multi-functional Michael acceptor has said skeleton (b) or said skeleton (c), the weight-average molecular weight of said multi-functional Michael acceptor is 5,000 or less.

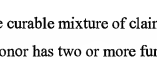
5. (original) The curable mixture of claim 1 wherein the reactive equivalent ratio of said curable mixture is in the range of 0.1:1 to 2:1.

6. (original) The curable mixture of claim 1 wherein the donor anion ratio of said curable mixture is in the range of 0.5% to 10%.

7. - 10. (cancelled)

11. (previously presented) The curable mixture of claim 1, wherein at least one of said anion of a Michael donor is an anion of a Michael donor that has the same composition as at least one of said multi-functional Michael donor.

12. (previously presented) The curable mixture of claim 1 wherein at least one of said multi-functional Michael donor has two or more functional groups with the structure



wherein R^5 is $-\overset{O}{\overset{\|}{C}}-$ or $-O-\overset{O}{\overset{\|}{C}}-$; R^7 is $-\overset{O}{\overset{\|}{C}}-R^8$ or $-\overset{O}{\overset{\|}{C}}-O-R^8$ or $-C\equiv N$; and R^6 and R^8 are, independently, H, alkyl, aryl, or alkaryl.

13. (previously presented) The curable mixture of claim 12 wherein at least one of said multi-functional Michael donor is selected from the group consisting of
    (i) polyhydric alcohols in which one or more hydroxyl group is linked to an acetoacetate group through an ester linkage, and
    (ii) compounds containing one or more functional groups selected from the group consisting of acetoacetate, acetoacetamide, cyanoacetate, and cyanoacetamide; wherein said functional groups are attached to one or more skeleton selected from the group consisting of castor oil, polyester polymer, polyether polymer, acrylic polymer, methacrylic polymer, and polydiene polymer.

14. (cancelled)

15. (previously presented) The curable mixture of claim 2 wherein at least one said multi-functional Michael donor has a skeleton that is a polyhydric alcohol that has molecular weight of 200 or more.

16. (previously presented) The curable mixture of claim 1 wherein alkali metal hydroxides, alkali metal alkoxides, quaternary ammonium hydroxides, diaza compounds, guanidine compounds, amidines, pyridine, and imidazoline are absent or substantially absent from said mixture.

17. (cancelled)

18. (previously presented) The curable mixture of claim 4 wherein at least one of said multi-functional Michael acceptors has a skeleton that is a polyhydric alcohol.

19. (previously presented) The curable mixture of claim 1 wherein said multi-functional Michael acceptor has a skeleton selected from the group consisting of

(a) polyhydric alcohols,

(b) oligomers that have weight-average molecular weight of 400 to 1,000, and

(c) polymers that have weight-average molecular weight of 1,000 or more;

with the proviso that when said multi-functional Michael acceptor has said skeleton (a), the molecular weight of said multi-functional Michael acceptor is 2,000 or less; and with the further proviso that when said multi-functional Michael acceptor has said skeleton (b) or said skeleton (c), the weight-average molecular weight of said multi-functional Michael acceptor is 2,000 or less.

20. (previously presented) The curable mixture of claim 1 wherein said multi-functional Michael acceptor has a skeleton selected from the group consisting of

(a) polyhydric alcohols, and

(b) oligomers that have weight-average molecular weight of 400 to 1,000;

with the proviso that when said multi-functional Michael acceptor has said skeleton (a), the molecular weight of said multi-functional Michael acceptor is 1,000 or less; and with the further proviso that when said multi-functional Michael acceptor has said skeleton (b), the weight-average molecular weight of said multi-functional Michael acceptor is 1,000 or less.

21. (previously presented) The curable of claim 1, wherein said curable mixture does not contain any of the catalysts usually used for Michael addition reactions.

22. (previously presented) The curable mixture of claim 1, wherein said curable mixture comprises 2% or less by weight non-reactive volatile compounds, based on the total weight of said curable mixture.

23. (previously presented) The curable mixture of claim 1, wherein said curable mixture comprises 1% or less by weight non-reactive volatile compounds, based on the total weight of said curable mixture.

24. (previously presented) The curable mixture of claim 1, wherein said curable mixture is substantially free of non-reactive volatile compounds.

25. (new) The curable mixture of claim 12, wherein said curable mixture does not contain any of the catalysts usually used for Michael addition reactions.

26. (new) The curable mixture of claim 25, wherein at least one of said anion of a Michael donor is an anion of a Michael donor that has the same composition as at least one of said multi-functional Michael donor.